



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) Lentz, et al. Examiner: Miller, Cheryl L.
Application No.: 10/822,200 Group Art Unit: 3738
Confirmation No.: 2373 Docket: 760-129 DIV/CIP/
CON II/RCE II
Filed: April 9, 2004 Dated: December 29, 2006
For: SELF-SEALING PTFE
VASCULAR GRAFT AND
MANUFACTURING
METHODS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dated: December 29, 2006

Signature: K.J. Goodhand/

K.J. Goodhand

STATEMENT REGARDING INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sir:

This statement is being submitted in accordance with M.P.E.P. §713.04. As the Interview Summary was mailed on November 30, 2006, this statement is timely filed on December 29, 2006.

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the status of the above-identified application with the undersigned representative on November 24, 2006.

The Interview Summary indicates that all of the pending claims were discussed on the aforementioned date. However, the undersigned representative only recalls the Examiner discussing independent claims 32 and 50 and dependent claim 34 as recited in the Amendment

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and Response to Office Action which was filed by Applicants on October 25, 2006, and apparently received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 30, 2006. In this regard, it the undersigned's understanding that the reference to claim 35 in the Continuation Sheet (PTOL-413) accompanying the Interview Summary should, in fact, be a reference to claim 34. Furthermore, Applicants' note that the fifth line appearing on the Continuation Sheet (PTOL-413) references a claim which is not identified by number. Accordingly, it is not clear to which claim the Examiner is referring.

With that said, the undersigned representative confirms that the Interview Summary including the accompanying Continuation Sheet (PTOL-413) otherwise accurately summarizes the substance of the Examiner's position as conveyed to the undersigned representative on November 24, 2006, to the best of the undersigned's recollection. During the telephonic interview, the undersigned did not agree with any comments made by the Examiner but rather merely indicated that Applicants would consider the Examiner's comments. Applicants confirm that the undersigned representative indicated that an RCE would be filed, which has since been done.


It should be understood that the submission of this statement is not intended to be, nor does it constitute, an acquiescence by Applicants of any of the Examiner's positions as set forth

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on the Continuation Sheet (PTOL-413). With particular regard to U.S. Patent No. 4,193,138 to Okita, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's indication in the Interview Summary that a claim reciting three ePTFE layers and a gel would read on that patent.

It is respectfully submitted that the Interview Summary provides sufficient detail to satisfy the requirements of M.P.E.P. §713.04. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this submission, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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